

Weekly Bureau of Information for All Who Till the Soil or Are Interested in Making Homes

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

All inquiries and communications addressed to The Times-Dispatch will receive prompt attention. This department will accept, on Monday, and contributions or suggestions will be welcomed.

Facts for Farmers, Stock Breeders, Poultry Raisers, Orchardists, Truckers and Gardeners—Queries and Answers

PROFIT IN GOOD DRAFT HORSES

It costs but very little more to raise good draft horses than the ordinary scrub and the drafter will sell for three or four times as much.

A well-bred draft horse is almost as good as cash in the bank, because he sells on sight and brings a good price. A farmer who breeds good draft horses, using first-class stallions, can in a few years make a reputation which will add from 10 to 25 per cent to the price of his animals over the prices of others equally good bred by men without reputation.

There is always good money to be made in raising horses of this class, although many farmers seem to think that it does not pay. Most of them are right about this as far as their own experience goes, because they do not raise the right kind.

It is true that horses of a nondescript character, lacking proper form, weight or style for any particular purpose, never bring high prices and are, therefore, not profitable to raise. The average farmer has no business to attempt to raise fancy carriage or saddle horses, because they require special knowledge of breeding and training, and are profitable only to men who thoroughly understand the business of preparing them for market.

The draft horse, however, is the animal that does the hard work not only on the farm, but in the big cities, and he is always in demand. The reason there have been so few good draft horses raised in the past few years is because too many farmers took up with the craze several years ago of trying to produce roadsters by breeding their mares to light stallions, and as most of them were not willing to pay for the service of a first-class animal, the result is that the country is filled with second and third-rate horses of no particular use, and which bring low prices when sold.

It is gratifying to note, however, that farmers are coming to their senses and are now breeding more draft horses than ever before. Using stallions of the same type with proper weight, he can produce a type of animal that will turn out a profit at three years.

Draft mares will do practically as much work on the farm as horses, and if properly handled these working mares will prove the best breeders.

CANTOR BEAN PLANT.



This ornamental plant attains stately growth, producing a sublimated effect. The foliage is very picturesque and the fruit is brilliantly colored. Used as a centre for large flower beds, this beautiful plant has few superiors.

Value of Farmers' Garden.

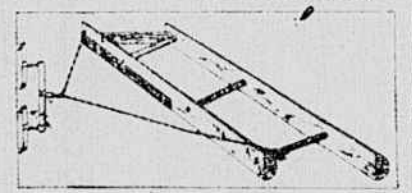
No longer do the farmers of the better class content themselves with raising a few rows of potatoes, calling that their garden. It is not necessary longer for the busy farmer's wife to look after these neglected corn and potato spots, for the farmer has come to understand that there is good money in them.

Time was when the farmer contented himself with raising grain crops, considering it beneath his dignity to spend time on the garden. If there was a garden on the place, it was usually left to his wife and children to pull the weeds and to do any other work that was actually required.

Now, the farmer, himself, with a work horse and a modern machine, can do more work in an hour than his wife could do in a week, and do it better. By careful cultivation, he can make his half acre or acre garden pay more cash money than any other acre on the farm.

The high cost of living has also roused the inhabitants of the small towns and cities to live in the suburbs of the cities, making use of every bit of ground possible to produce vegetables to place on the table supplies, and as first aid to their pocket-books—J. W. Lloyd.

MAKING A SPLIT LOG-DRAG.



The halves of the drag should be framed together by wooden braces so that the split surface of the log shall be in front. The face of the drag should lie at an angle of 45 degrees with the line of the road, thus drawing the earth toward the centre. The rear log should follow in the track of the first. The drag should be used after rain, or during a wet weather, to smooth the earth's surface and prevent ruts from forming to hold water. The drag not only smooths the road, but it also breaks up the mud so that it is hard when dry.

These drags have been used with great success on clay or water-holding soils. Many stretches of black gumbo muds on the Western coast are being improved by the use of this implement alone.

Every farmer should own one, and after a rain he should spend a few hours on the road adjacent to his farm. If the rain is heavy, depressions to fill, the drag should be used when the road is wet.

After it has been used long enough to make the road fairly smooth, the drag gives the best results if used when the earth begins to dry.

Raising Beef Cattle.

The Shorthorn, Aberdeen-Angus, Hereford, Red Poll and Devon breeds of cattle all do well in the South. The Shorthorn does well on all lands where the pastures are good and feed is plentiful. The cows usually prove to be good mothers, giving a milk enough for the calf and to supply the home as well. The result of the good milking qualities of the cows is usually a good growthy calf. The

Herefords and Angus are good grazers,

and will do well under range conditions, as well as on the small farm. The Hereford stands ahead of all breeds as a range animal, but the Angus, with its advantage over all breeds in the feed lot, as they finish out very smoothly, are high in quality and kill out a high percentage of marketable meat. The Devon is slower of growth than the other breeds, but are great rustlers, and fatten on pastures which are so thin that some of the beef breeds could hardly subsist. The Red Poll is a dual purpose breed, which ranks next to the milk strain of Shorthorns in the production of milk and beef. They are not as well known nor as popular as the Shorthorn, but have done well wherever tried in the South. Any of the breeds raised well with the native cattle, and can be used advantageously in breeding up the scrub herds.

Climbing Vines.

Nature intends vines to climb upwards, but if you wish a vine to spread and branch freely, grow the Japanese hop-humilis japonicus. It is an annual and wants to be sown this month where it is to grow. Were I allowed but one climber, I would choose the monthly honeysuckle. They play best in beauty of flower and sweetness of perfume. The wild grape is so hardy and its flowers so sweet, it should be given a place about the farmhouse.

The Houdan Fowl.

The Houdan is one of the best table breeds we have. It is also an excellent layer, producing eggs of the not only large size, but of a golden yellow color, the latter very much like the Minorca. As a farm fowl, however, they are not recommended for Virginia for the reason that it is a crested fowl. The young fall easy prey to hawks and other birds of prey, and the crested neck prevents them from seeing what is above them. The old fowls, if given a free range, are to be caught in a rainstorm and their crests become water-soaked, which generally leads on to roup.

Briefs on Lime and Liming.

If much lime to be used, buy a lime spreader.

Buy the lime with caution.

Ground limestone and marl are harmless materials.

The coarser the limestone, the more should be applied per acre for quick results.

Rarely does lime act as a true fertilizer.

Lime cannot inoculate.

Grow alfalfa on acid soil, lime first, then inoculate.

Lime only corrects acidity in soils.

Lime is not a "core-all" for every soil ailment.

Buy lime in carload lots.

Buy the lime, if finely divided, which will give you the most carbonates for your money.

Growing Rape.

In our experience we have found rape especially valuable as a late sowing and forage crop, although many sow it early and utilize it for forage during the whole of the season. We have obtained the best results by sowing rape in late June and early July. As a forage crop it is unequalled, as it feeds the sheep over the dry season during the late summer, and provides an abundance of late forage during the fall. Many have grown rape as a forage for cattle and swine, and experience has been confined largely to utilizing it for huddling sheep.

Nothing equals rape as a pasture for the lamb, as it carries them over the critical weaning period with scarcely a sign of shrinkage. It is unequalled in the list of succulent summer and fall feeds for starting mutton sheep and lambs on the flesh-making road to full grain feeding.

It promotes a healthful growth of wool by furnishing the best forms of wool-producing foods.

The silo solves the problem of storing the corn fodder to the best advantage. It is also a necessity for those who are anxious to have the best and most convenient form of handling the corn for feeding the live stock. It furnishes the cows with succulent, digestible feed the year round. Stock thrives best on green grass, and good forage conditions are never nearly approached by putting the corn in the silo than by any other feed or any other method of handling it.

Grass silage keeps the stock healthy, thrifty and sleek. There is no system devised whereby dry cow feed can be handled and brought to the feed manger in a condition that is relished by the cow like the silage. There is also much more waste in fodder when corn is allowed to stand in the field than when it is silaged. The feeding value of the fodder, if silaged, will weigh only about two or three times as much as when compared to twelve or fifteen tons of silage per acre, gives a farmer much more feed per acre.

Helps for the Farmer's Wife.

For a neuralgia afflicting hot, dry hands, a flannel dipped in boiling water and sprinkled with turpentine laid on the hands as quickly as possible will relieve the most severe case. To remove fine pin feathers when

Fine Specimen of Small Draft Horse.

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BRIEF NOTES THOUGHT OUT BY THE WAYSIDE

Any success calls for a planning of the work and a working of the plan. This applies to tobacco growing and selling, as well as to the Virginia crops.

Tomatoes may be staked or grown on a wire fence. Trim to one or two branches. It is more work, but larger and better colored fruit results.

When the green corn comes along a little later, do not stuff young pigs all they will eat or thumps will be the result. Do not forget that in the composition of an egg there is a great proportion of water, and the laying hen cannot produce eggs unless she has all the water she wants, and at the time she wants it.

A good grindstone is almost a necessity on the farm. By its use many hours may be saved which would otherwise be wasted in going to town to have sharpening done. The price is not high, and a good stone will last for many years.

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Dullest June in Years in Volume of Business

Growing Realization of Influence of Prodigious Grain Crops in Prospect Helps Materially.

SENSE OF RELIEF IN MARKET

Sentiment More Cheerful in Final Days of Week, as Result of Confidence Between President and Representatives of Big Business.

New York, July 5.—There is a sense of relief in stock market circles over the passing of the dullest June as to volume of business in twenty years. Bonds were in better demand at higher levels, due to activity in a few low grades affected by reorganization and dividend payments. The firm underestimation of the feeling that probable improvement lay in the future.

The market's resistance to the previous week's shock of the Chaffin failure and last week's Austrian tragedy emphasized this feeling.

Growing realization of the influence on business of the prodigious grain crops in prospect helped materially.

Known sales of the heavy wheat for export confirmed reports of foreign shortage, coincident with our abundance. The government cotton estimate proved the previous month's deficiency in condition, mostly made up. This assurance of extraordinary increase in the year's production of primary wealth reacted on all departments of business and industry.

This fact, supplemented by the frantic hope that the freight rate decision would be known before the resumption of another week's trading. Remaining uncertainty on the scope and tenor of the decision was a partial restraint in speculative activity, but in the final days of the week sentiment became more cheerful as a result of the conference between President Wilson and representatives of the leading banking interests.

Portentous piling up of gold in Paris gives security for the success of next week's French loan issue, and other money markets relaxed into ease after the July 1 requirements. The French loan, it is expected, will lead to other issues which will bring out investment capital and release the severe condition of resources of the great credit banks in short-time securities.

Mexico, Elster, Albania and trust legislation receded into the background, without entirely dropping out of consideration.

WEEKLY COTTON MARKET

New Orleans, July 5.—The cotton market lost this last week 25 to 37 points on futures, compared with the loss of the preceding week. Severe weather in the South, and a considerable stock of cotton was placed. The main features that stimulated offerings were the condition report on the weather, the showers and lower temperatures in the belt toward the end of the week, and the poor cables reports from Liverpool. This next week the trade is going to pay more attention to the matter of rainfall over the South, and the high temperature and normally high temperature will probably cause liberal selling, while a return to droughty conditions might prompt temporary withdrawal of the result in renewed aggressiveness among the bulls.